

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY S/S-O: MATTESON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

USNMR SHAPE

S E C R E T STATE 068780

EXDIS MILITARY ADDEE HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOLLOWING REPEAT NATO BRUSSELS 1653 ACTUON STATE

INFO ATHENS BONN LONDON MAR 26

QUOTE

S E C R E T USNATO 1653

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, GR

SUBJ: GREECE AND NATO

REF: A. USNATO 1619; B. STATE 058882

1. ON MARCH 24, AMBASSADOR BRUCE MET WITH AMBASSADOR DE STAERCKE (BELGIUM) AND CARRIED OUT INSTRUCTIONS IN PARA 6, REF B. BRUCE ASKED THE BELGIAN AMBASSADOR, DEAN OF THE NATO PERMREPS, IF HE WAS INCLINED TO SUGGEST DIRECTLY TO GREEK PERMREP THEODOROPOULOS THAT GREECE TAKE THE INITIATIVE ALONG THE LINES IN THE PROPOSED U.S. APPROACH. DE STAERCKE WILLINGLY UNDERTOOK TO DO SO.

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2. ON MARCH 25, BRUCE MET WITH AMBASSADORS CATALANO (ITALY), PECK

(U.K.) AND CHARGE BOSS (FRG). AFTER LISTENING CAREFULLY TO THE PROPOSED U.S. APPROACH, THE THREE RAISED THE QUESTION OF HOW THIS PROCEDURE MIGHT AFFECT THE TURKS WHOM THEY BELIEVED WOULD SOON BECOME AWARE OF IT. IT WAS DECIDED THAT THEY WOULD WISH TO CONSIDER THE MATTER FURTHER AND WOULD STUDY BRUCE'S TALKING POINTS. THEY SUGGESTED A SIMILAR MEETING NEXT WEEK WITH SYG LUNS AND DE STAERCKE PRESENT TO CONSIDER THE QUESTION FURTHER. BRUCE EXPLAINED, WHEN QUERIED, THAT THE UNITED STATES FELT ITSELF QUALIFIED -- AND IN FACT FULLY INTENDED -- TO MAKE THE OUTLINED POINTS TO AMBASSADOR THEODOROPOLOUS ON A STRICTLY BILATERAL BASIS. BUT, SINCE MANY DECISIONS REACHED IN THE GREEK/U.S. NEGOTIATIONS WOULD AFFECT DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY THE INTERESTS OF NATO, HE THOUGHT PERHAPS THAT REVIEWING THESE BILATERAL POINTS IN ADVANCE WITH KEY ALLIES WAS THE BEST WAY OF ACHIEVING ALLIED HELP IN CONVINCING THE GREEKS TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE IN THE GREEK/NATO NEGOTIATIONS. BRUCE EMPHASIZED THAT IN OUR VIEW THE GOALS OF PROTECTING U.S. AND NATO INTERESTS ARE COMPLEMENTARY.

3. COMMENT: BECAUSE OF THE HOLIDAY SEASON, IT MAY BE DIFFICULT TO DEVELOP THESE CONVERSATIONS EFFECTIVELY IN TIME TO ACCOMPLISH THE ENTIRE SCENARIO OUTLINED IN REF B PRIOR TO THE OPENING OF THE SECOND ROUND OF U.S./GREEK EXPLORATORY TALKS. SYG LUNS WILL NOT RETURN TO NATO HEADQUARTERS UNTIL TUESDAY, APRIL 1, AND DE STAERCKE WILL NOT RETURN UNTIL APRIL 7. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, AND GIVEN THE TIME ELEMENT INVOLVED, FROM OUR VIEWPOINT WE SEE NO REASON TO POSTPONE THE PARALLEL PRESENTATION IN ATHENS TO THE GOVERNMENT OF GREECE PER PARAS 7 AND 8, REF B, IF THE DEPARTMENT CONCLUDES IT IS IMPORTANT TO LAY THIS GROUND WORK THERE BEFORE THE SECOND ROUND OF U.S./GREEK TALKS, EVEN THOUGH THE CONSULTATIONS AT NATO HAVE NOT BEEN COMPLETED PER INSTRUCTIONS IN REFTEL B. MISSION DOES NOT EXPECT TROUBLE, BUT WE FIND THAT SOME OF OUR ALLIES NEED MORE TIME TO THINK THROUGH THESE MATTERS WHICH THEY FIND SOMEWHAT COMPLICATED. IN OUR MEETING WITH THE KEY ALLIES NEXT WEEK, WE INTEND AGAIN TO MAKE THE POINT THAT WE EXPECT THAT AS GREEK/NATO NEGOTIATIONS EVOLVE, WE WILL FIND THAT MANY STEPS CAN BE TAKEN ONLY BY PRE-ARRANGEMENT WITH THE TURKS AND THEN WITH RATIFICATION BY THE FULL DPC. ON THE OTHER HAND, WE EXPECT, OR AT LEAST INTEND TO BE PREPARED FOR THE EVENTU-

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ALITY, THAT MANY STEPS CAN BE REHEARSED ONLY IN A SMALLER, MORE DISCREET FORUM WHICH ALLOWS KEY ALLIES TO DISCUSS CERTAIN MATTERS WITHOUT THE TURKS BEING PRESENT, AND CERTAIN OTHER MATTERS WITHOUT THE GREEKS BEING PRESENT.

4. SUGGEST DEPARTMENT REPEAT THIS MESSAGE AND REFTELS TO AMEMBASSY ROME, AMEMBASSY ANKARA, AND USNMR SHAPE. BRUCE UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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